

State of Utah

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County of Carbon

William Edwards, being first duly sworn, says: that he is 82 years of age, a resident of Greenville, Beaver County, Utah, That in September of 1857 your affiant resided at Cedar City, Iron County, in the Territory of Utah: that during said month your affiant accompanied about 30 men and older boys to Mountain Meadows where, we were told, an Indian massacre of a emigrant train had been consummated, and our services needed to bury the dead.

We arrived at said Mountain Meadows early in the evening only to find John D. Lee and several other white men already present, and the said emigrants alive and well fortified against the Indian siege. After surveying the situation for some time we were called to a council of white men by said John D. Lee and by him ordered to assist the Indians in their purposes. Some of the council objected to the butchery but were silenced by said Lee and 2 or 3 others of our file leaders. The strategy, as laid out by said Lee, was that said Lee would trick the said emigrants into giving up their arms and fortifications by pledging them safe conduct to Cedar City. After the said emigrants were a safe distance from their defences, a gunshot would signal us to keep our weapons conspicuous for the benefit of the Indians who would at that moment rush upon us, and that the best way to display them would be to join in the slaughter. The next day the said plan was carried out under the supervision of said Lee except that your affiant together with many of the other white men refused to discharge his weapon.

Your affiant further says: that he does not believe the reports that white men were knowingly sent to said Mountain Meadows by Isaac C. Haight for any other purpose than to bury the supposed dead: that your affiant was but 15 years of age at the time of the said Massacre, and that he and a few others who were nearly as young would not have been permitted to accompany the men if a battle were foreseen.

William Edwards
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of May, 1924.

F. E. Woods
Notary Public, residing at Price, Utah

My commission expires April 11, 1927.